From: Jessica Winter
To: Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA; Robert Neely
Subject: Re: Fw: LWG Total PCB Modeling Approach Memo
Date: 01/21/2010 10:53 AM

Hi Eric,
I just reached your voicemail and it says you're coming up to Seattle this week- hope the nice weather holds out for you.
I'm looking over LWG's memo on the proposed approach for tPCB modeling, and I realized I haven't seen the comments EPA sent to LWG after the fate and transport modeling meeting in November. I'm not sure what the reasons were for modeling tPCB rather than individual congeners-- I'm assuming it's because there's more data on total PCB concentrations in the river as opposed to congener-specific data? The approach they're suggesting here (modeling homolog classes and then scaling up to get tPCB) doesn't seem to solve that problem because we still have to estimate homolog concentrations from Aroclor data, which is doable but hard/introduces uncertainty, especially where we're dealing with weathered chemicals and where (I assume) we don't have the original chromatograms from the Aroclor measurements, just concentrations. Were there other reasons for asking LWG to model tPCB instead of congeners?

The other reason I can think of for modeling total PCBs rather than congeners might be because we are concerned about one congener degrading into another and disappearing from the model. If that's the issue, then perhaps we want to pursue what QEA said at the 11-18-09 meeting about QEAFATE's ability to model multiple chemicals simultaneously to simulate interactions and degradation. But there might be other reasons that I've forgotten.

I'm wondering if the food web model will treat PCBs as one entity or will split PCBs into homolog or congener classes.
--Jessica

Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov wrote:
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> ----- Forwarded by Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US on 01/20/2010 12:47 PM
> -----
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> Subject: LWG Total PCB Modeling Approach Memo
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> Eric, Chip,
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> Please see attached LWG Total PCB Modeling Approach memo.
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> Please let us know if you have any questions.
>
> Thank you,
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